



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Louisiana Farm Reporter
Volume 11 Number 9
May 6, 2011



Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Livestock Slaughter
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during March totaled 600,000 pounds, up 20 percent from last month but unchanged from the previous year.

There were 500 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, up 100 head from the previous month but the same as the previous year. Average live weight was 792 pounds, down 47 pounds from the previous month but six pounds above March 2010. Total live weight, at 410,000 pounds, was up 11 percent from the previous month and eight percent above the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during March totaled 400 head, up 100 head from the previous month but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 536 pounds, down five pounds from the previous month but one pound above March 2010. Total live weight, at 210,000 pounds, was 17 percent above the previous month but nine percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 1,200 head, up 200 head from the previous month but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 217 pounds, up 28 pounds from the previous month and 12 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 268,000 pounds, up 46 percent from the previous month but eight percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 200 head, down 100 head from the previous month and 200 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 73 pounds, up four pounds from the previous month but three pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.4 billion pounds in March, up two percent from the 4.3 billion pounds produced in March 2010.

March 2011 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays. **March 2010** contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.3 billion pounds, was two percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled three million head, up two percent from March 2010. The average live weight was up three pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.1 million pounds, one percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,900 head, down nine percent from March 2010. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from last year, at 283 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.1 billion pounds, up one percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.9 million head, down two percent from March 2010. The average live weight was up six pounds from the previous year, at 278 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.1 million pounds, was down 20 percent from March 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 193,900 head, 26 percent below last year. The average live weight was 146 pounds, up 11 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2010 commercial red meat production was 12.2 billion pounds, up two percent from 2010. Accumulated beef production was up three percent from last year; veal was down three percent; pork was up two percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 16 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	February	March		January - March		March		January - March	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.3	1.3	2,911.5	2,959.2	8,163.8	8,316.8
Calves	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.3	1.1	79.9	72.9	236.8	213.5
Hogs	1.0	1.4	1.2	3.4	3.0	10,031.5	9,873.0	27,629.9	27,486.2
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.7	263.2	193.9	628.6	510.1
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	369	381	410	1,022	1,108	3,691,673	3,761,623	10,432,472	10,666,697
Calves	180	231	210	728	601	20,410	20,251	57,938	56,231
Hogs	184	290	268	668	601	2,724,041	2,739,883	7,489,245	7,628,184
Sheep & Lambs	18	28	17	68	47	35,386	28,195	86,062	72,338
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	839	786	792	786	852	1,273	1,276	1,282	1,287
Calves	541	535	536	560	546	259	283	248	270
Hogs	189	205	217	196	200	272	278	271	278
Sheep & Lambs	69	76	73	76	67	135	146	137	142
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.5	1.5	4,281.1	4,347.0	11,934.5	12,200.1

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	April 2010	March 2011	April ¹ 2011	April 2010	March 2011	April ¹ 2011
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	9.32	13.30	2/	9.47	12.70	12.80
Sorghum, per cwt	2/	n/a	n/a	5.39	10.60	11.80
Rice, per cwt	13.00	12.80	12.50	14.30	13.00	14.00
Upland Cotton, per pound	.658	2/	.784 ³	.667	.823	.839 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	108.00	124.00	141.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	68.60	5/	5/	95.60	115.00	120.00
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	101.00	5/	5/	101.00	118.00	124.00
Cows, per cwt ⁶	55.40	5/	5/	57.50	75.20	79.80
Calves, per cwt	114.00	5/	5/	124.00	148.00	150.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.490	.490	.490
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.767	.849	1.050
Milk, All, per cwt ⁷	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.60	20.40	19.70

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Estimates discontinued in 2011.

⁶ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁷ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available

April Farm Prices Received Index Up 2 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 174 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased two points from March. The Crop Index was up one point and the Livestock Index increased four points. Producers received higher prices for corn, cattle, eggs and hogs and lower prices for lettuce, milk, tomatoes and celery. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, strawberries, milk and broilers offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat and cotton.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 36 points from April 2010. The Food Commodities Index, at 167, decreased two points from last month but increased 28 points from April 2010.

Prices Paid Index Up 3 Point

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 204 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index was up three points from March and 23 points above April 2010. Higher prices in April for nitrogen, feed grains, diesel and complete feeds more than offset lower prices for concentrates, feeder pigs, supplements and herbicides.

The Louisiana Farm Reporter is published semi-monthly (twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, USDA-NASS Louisiana Field Office, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, La 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Postmaster: send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038

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